

Welcome



Dear Maine Resident,

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the process of registering and voting in Maine. Your interest in voting is appreciated.

This guide explains how to register and vote in state elections. By voting, you are keeping Maine's democracy strong and continuing a long history of citizen participation in the governing of our state and nation.

It's easy to take our right to vote for granted--to decide that voting isn't worth the effort or "doesn't make a difference."

The reality is that voting makes a tremendous difference. By casting a ballot, each citizen has a voice in deciding who will serve in office and what positions will be taken on major issues.

Voting is of critical importance to the strength and vitality of our system of government, and I congratulate you for recognizing its significance.

For our democracy to work, we must all participate in the process. Please register and vote and encourage your family, friends and neighbors to do the same.

Help make Maine #1 in the nation for voter turnout - cast a ballot in the November 2nd General Election!

Sincerely,

Dan A. Gwadosky
Secretary of State

State of Maine Voter Guide 2004



Prepared by
**Secretary of State
Dan A. Gwadosky**

For additional information, contact:

Office of the Secretary of State
Division of Elections
101 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0101
(207) 624-7650
CEC.Elections@maine.gov
www.maine.gov/sos/cec/elec/

Register



Who can register and vote in Maine?

To register, you must be a United States citizen, at least 17 years of age, and live in Maine. To vote, you must be registered in the community where you reside, and be at least 18 years of age. A new law will allow many 17 year olds to vote for candidates in June primary elections beginning in 2006.

How do I register to vote?

You fill out a voter registration card. There's a sample card in this brochure with instructions.

Where do I go to register?

You can register to vote at your town office or city hall, through any Motor Vehicle branch office, in most state & federal social service agencies, or at voter registration drives.

Completed voter registration cards may be hand delivered or mailed to your town office or city hall, or sent to the Secretary of State's Office in Augusta.

Is there a deadline for registering?

No. It's never too late to register to vote in Maine. You can register to vote until, and including, election day. There is no cut-off date for registering to vote in person at your town office or city hall.

When is the next election?

November 2, 2004 is the next statewide General Election.

Vote



Where do I go to vote?

Every town and city has its own places where people vote. You can call your town office or city hall to find out where you vote. Voting places open between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m., depending on the size of the town. Local officials can give you the exact opening time for your community. All polling places close at 8:00 p.m. on election day.

How do I mark a ballot?

Each ballot tells you how to mark your choices. If you have a question, ask an election official. If you make a mistake, fold your ballot and give it to an election official. The election official will give you another ballot.

Can I have help voting?

Yes. If you need help reading or marking the ballot, you may ask a relative or friend for assistance. The helper does not have to be a voter or old enough to vote. An election official can also help you read or mark a ballot. However, your employer or union official cannot help you vote.

Do I need to go to the polls on Election Day to vote?

No. Any registered voter may cast an absentee ballot instead of voting in person at the polling place.

You do not need to have a specific reason or be unable to vote at the polls on election day to use an absentee ballot. Call your town or city clerk for an application and assistance.

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MAINE VOTER REGISTRATION APPLICATION - COMPLETE BOTH SIDES OF THIS CARD -	
CHANGE OF NAME (Print legal name, if applicable) 7 <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> LAST FIRST MIDDLE </div>	VOTER ID: By federal law, you must provide the applicable ID number, as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Your Maine Driver's License number; or 2. If you don't have a Maine Driver's License, the last 4 digits of your Social Security Number; or 3. Write "none" if you don't have either ID. 9
SIGN AND DATE THIS CARD. Under penalty of law, I certify that the information on this card is true. 8 <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> Signature of Applicant Date </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; margin-top: 10px;"> _____ _____ _____ _____ </div>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to complete this online application may prevent registration. • Deliver or mail this completed card to your local registrar or to the Maine Division of Elections: 801 State House Station, Augusta, ME 04333-0101 10A • <u>If you mail this card</u>, you must include a photocopy of your Maine driver's license, or utility bill, or a government document that shows your name and address. • This properly completed application must be received by the municipal registrar <u>10 business days or more before an election. If less than 10 business days before an election, you must register in person.</u> • For election information, call 207-624-7660 or visit www.maine.gov/elections/maine/ 	
FOR REGISTRAR'S USE ONLY	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Address/Name Change Date Received: ____/____/____ Ward: _____ Precinct: _____ </div> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> Enrollment Change <input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate Application 10B </div> </div>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div> <input type="checkbox"/> New Registration <input type="checkbox"/> Received in mail from voter <input type="checkbox"/> Voter ID not/doesn't provided or matched <input type="checkbox"/> Received in person <input type="checkbox"/> Received from the Secretary of State's voter registration drive or another third party </div> </div>

7. **Change of name. (If applicable)** This information is only required of voters who have changed their legal name since registering to vote in Maine.
8. **Voter's Signature. (Required)** Voters must sign their legal name below the statement certifying that all the information is true.
9. **Voter ID (or Unique ID Number). (Required AFTER 1/1/06)** The purpose of the voter ID number is to designate each voter in the computerized statewide voter registration list, once the list has been developed. The ID number can be accepted now, but it is not required until January 1, 2006.
 - A. **Driver's License Number.** Voters who have a valid Maine Driver's License may list that number.
 - B. **Social Security Number.** Voters who don't have a valid Maine Driver's License may list the last four digits of their Social Security Number.
 - C. **NONE.** Voters who don't have either of these forms of ID must write "NONE" in this space.
10. **A. Instructions.** The instructions for identification requirements for mail-in registrations remind voters who mail their registration applications to the municipal registrar that they must also provide a copy of certain identity documents with the registration form. Mail-in registrants must submit a copy of a Maine driver's license or other valid photo ID, or a current utility bill, or bank statement, or paycheck, or other government document that shows the voter's name and address.
 - B. **For Registrar's Use Only.** This space should only be completed by the municipal registrar of voters.

NOTE: If required information is omitted, the municipal registrar of voters must notify the applicant that the form is incomplete, and must later reject the application if the information is not provided. If optional information is omitted, the registrar must still process the application and may not reject it for that reason.